

The City of Ankeny has adopted the International Fire Code which allows for recreational fires as long as the following regulations are followed. A permit is not required for a recreational fire, see general information and definitions below:

Prohibited open burning. Open burning that will be offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous or objectionable shall be prohibited. Ankeny Fire, Police and Code Enforcement personnel are authorized to order the extinguishment of open burning.

Recreational Fire. An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish/refuse where fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and **has a total area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height** for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

Bonfire. An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes with a pile size exceeding the recreational fire limits shall be defined as a bonfire. (approval and a permit shall be obtained from the Fire Chief prior to kindling a bonfire)

Approved container. A non-combustible fireplace, pit or other non-combustible wood-burning appliance system (kiva, chimenea etc) provided all openings are protected with spark arrestors constructed of heavy iron, heavy wire mesh or other non-combustible material with openings no larger than 1/4".

Locations for open burning:

- Recreational fires shall not be less than 25 feet from structures, combustibles and property lines.
- Fires in approved containers shall not be less than 15 feet from structures, combustibles and property lines.
- Bonfires shall not be less than 50 feet from structures, combustibles and property lines (permit required).

Attendance:

- The fire shall be attended by a responsible adult at all times.
- The attendant shall be knowledgeable in the use of fire extinguishing equipment.
- The attendant shall supervise the fire until it has been fully extinguished.

Fire extinguishment equipment options:

- 4-A (minimum rating) portable fire extinguisher
- Water hose
- Dirt, sand, water barrel

Fuels Permitted

- Untreated wood, logs, branches
- Coal

Fuels Not Permitted

Rubbish/refuse such as - painted/stained/treated wood, garbage, rubbish, vegetation, grass clippings, leaves, rubber, plastic, flammable/combustible liquids (paint, used oil etc)

For informational purposes only - below is a synopsis of the open burning regulations of the Polk County Air Quality Division:

5-7. OPEN BURNING PROHIBITED

It shall be unlawful for any person to open burn or to permit open burning of any refuse, rubbish, or garbage within Polk County.

It shall be unlawful for any person to open burn or to permit open burning on any landscape waste within Polk County from any industrial source, commercial source, or multiple dwelling containing two or more apartment units.

In all other areas of Polk County, it shall be unlawful to open burn or permit open burning of any refuse, rubbish, garbage, landscape waste, or other combustible material, except that, unless prohibited by local ordinance, on any land site where the land use is for single-family or agricultural operations, open burning may be used to dispose of landscape waste originating on or growing on the same site. NOTE: Ankeny does not allow landscape waste burning.

This section shall not apply to outdoor fireplaces or grills burning untreated wood or charcoal, used solely for the non-commercial preparation of food. Such outdoor fireplaces or grills shall not be used for the burning of refuse, rubbish or garbage.

Upon receipt of written request, the health officer is authorized to issue a permit for an open fire for the following purposes. Such permit may contain conditions and is subject to the provisions set forth in this chapter.

- 1) Disaster Rubbish. The open burning of rubbish, including landscape waste, for the duration of the community disaster period in cases where an officially declared emergency condition exists.
- 2) Trees and tree trimmings. The open burning of trees and tree trimmings not originating on the premises provided that the burning site is operated by a local government entity, the burning site is fenced and access is controlled, burning is conducted on a regularly scheduled basis and is supervised at all times, burning is conducted only when weather conditions are favorable with respect to surrounding property, and the burning site is limited to areas at least one-quarter mile from any inhabited building. However, when the open burning of trees and tree trimming causes air pollution as defined in section 455B.131(3) Code of Iowa, the Health Officer may take appropriate action to secure relocation of the burning operation. Rubber tires shall not be used to ignite trees and tree trimmings.
- 4) Landscape Waste. The disposal by open burning of landscape waste originating on or growing on the same land site only where permitted in this section. However, the burning of landscape waste produced in clearing, grubbing and construction operations shall be limited to areas located at least one-fourth mile from any building inhabited by other than the landowner or tenant conducting open burning. Rubber tires shall not be used to ignite landscape waste.
- 6) Paper or plastic pesticide containers and seed corn bags. Open burning as specified in Chapter 567-23.2(3)h(455B) only where permitted by this section.
- 7) For public gatherings under the legitimate sponsorship of civic fraternal, religious, education or similar organization.
- 8) Crews operating under the authority of any political subdivision, only where permitted by this section.
- 9) Prairie re-establishment and maintenance at sites which are publicly owned or normally open to the general public.

For complete information please visit the following website: www.airquality.co.polk.ia.us - Rules and Regulations.